



March 21, 2008

# Windham County News

**Windham County  
USDA Service Center**  
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[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
**Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**County Committee**  
Jill Adams Mancivalano-  
Chair  
Charles Robb Jr. -Vice  
Arnold Fisher-Member

County Committee meets  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month

**Staff**  
County Executive Director  
Julie Jacque (x107)  
[Julie.Jacque@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Julie.Jacque@vt.usda.gov)

Program Technician  
Valerie Brassor (x100)  
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**Farm Loan Staff**  
George Button, Jr. FLM  
802-295-7942 x15  
800-789-6713  
[George.button@vt.usda.gov](mailto:George.button@vt.usda.gov)

George is in Windham Co.  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of  
the month or by appointment

**NRCS Staff**  
Lance Gorham x101  
[Lance.gorham@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Lance.gorham@vt.usda.gov)

**NRC District Staff**  
Jolene Hamilton, Mgr.x104  
Sylvia Harris x105



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## Julie's Notes

It is early MUD season-WOW! I don't even know the last time I've driven on roads like these! I almost lost the government car in a melting frost heave driving around the woods of the county. Reports from the maple producers are that the season is good. That is great news. There may be some that disagree, but I have to admit that I was pleased to see enough (CLEAN) snow remaining to enjoy sugar on snow- it's not every year that we can experience that simple pleasure.

**On a more serious note** from my sing-song vision of our quintessential New England traditions, the office received reports of some structure collapses from this heavy, iceberg type snow build-up. I did notify our state office of these cases. I do not know what that notification will indicate for future programs or options. Currently, if you are looking for options in assistance for rebuilding agricultural structures, we offer competitive interest rates for loans. George Button, Farm Loan Manager, is in Brattleboro two days a month and is also available to visit you at the farm to discuss your needs.

**News from the office** is the announcement of the dairy disaster assistance program. Milk handlers for Vermont have agreed to mail milk producers a statement in this month's check with all the production information you would need to apply. If your production decreased in 2006 and 2007 based on the poor forages and lack of quality pastures covered under the 2006 weather disaster designation in place for Windham County, you can apply for the dairy assistance. Bring the form in when you receive it and we can talk about it in more detail. This is a very short sign-up period. Applications MUST be received by May 5.

**The Livestock Compensation** program sign-up has been going on and relates to the 2006 rainy spring and early summer. Some suggestions to determine an increase in feed costs that you may have incurred is by looking at your Schedule F on your current and previous year tax returns. Is there an increase in your yearly feed costs from 2005 to 2006 and 2007? Can this increase be attributed to the fact that your forages needed a boost? Increases solely due to "ethanol inflation" do not qualify. If you have been uncertain about how this program may help you, this fairly quick, overall check may help indicate to you that your tonnages purchased were more than "normal" and can be reimbursed through LCP.

## Livestock Compensation Program

**(LCP)** — Sign-up continues for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). An ending date has not yet been announced but you are encouraged to apply now. The LCP program covers pasture loss and additional feed costs for crop year 2006. Additional feed (forages, additives, concentrates, extenders) must have been purchased and PAID FOR between May 15, 2006 and May 14, 2007 to be eligible. Call the office or stop by for more details.

## Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program Sign-up has started

The Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program sign-up for will run from March 5, 2008 until May 5, 2008. This program provides \$16 million in benefits. No payments will be issued until all applications are in and tabulated.

Benefits will be calculated using a maximum payment rate per pound based on the average annual Mailbox price by State. If the total calculated benefit nationwide totals more than \$16M, then a national factor will be developed to stay within the funding allotment.

Producers in Vermont are eligible to apply for 2006 and/or 2007 milk production losses caused by natural disaster. A producer's loss will be calculated by subtracting commercially marketed production from the base year production.

The base period for each disaster year will be the average annual marketed production from calendar years 2003 and 2004.

To establish this, you will need to provide documentation of milk production for the calendar years 2003 and 2004, as well as the average number of cows in the dairy herd during those years.

To apply, we will need production and the average number of cows in the dairy herd for the years that you are applying for. To find out more information or to apply for the program, contact your local FSA County Office.

**Note: Milk handlers will be mailing out a summary of production to you in the next milk check which can be brought to the FSA office.**

## "SAME AS LAST YEAR" Acreage Report

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Please remember that filing an accurate acreage report for **ALL crops and land uses**, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs and provide an accurate record to apply for future benefits.

**Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency and NRCS Conservation programs.**

In the continuous process of updating farm records in the office and learning the producers in the county **we encourage you to come into the office and see what we have on file for you.**

Have you?

- acquired additional land by rental agreement, purchase or clearing,

Will you?

- Be dropping a previously cropped parcel(s),
- be clearing areas for additional pasture or cropland

Remember to check with NRCS before clearing additional lands for pasture or cropping to avoid Sod/Swamp buster violations.

Are you?

- Accurately able to report "Same as Last Year"?



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Crop Disaster Program (CDP)**

Sign-up continues for the quantity part of the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). An ending date has not yet been announced. CDP-quantity provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity losses to 2005, 2006 or 2007 crops from natural disasters and related conditions. Producers who incurred qualifying losses must choose only one year to receive benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple crops as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **\*\*Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.\*\***

**Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.**

USDA will announce and conduct sign-up for CDP-quality losses at a later date.

**Low Interest Loans Available from FSA**

FSA may be able to assist your farming operation with an operating or ownership loan. The rate for operating loans approved in **March 2008 is 3.75%.**

It's the time of year where you are thinking of spring planting needs. Whether you need loan funds to finance your spring needs for fertilizer, seed, or you need to upgrade your equipment line with a new tractor, planter, baler; or perhaps you have been thinking about expanding your operation; or need credit to increase your production, FSA may be able to help.

FSA's loan programs are designed to help family farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. FSA also provides credit to beginning farmers who may not have sufficient net worth to qualify for commercial credit. In other cases, farmers that qualify for FSA loans are folks who have suffered financial setbacks from natural and economic disasters, or who have limited resources with which to establish and maintain profitable farming operations.

Some farmers obtain their credit needs through the use of loan guarantees. Under a guaranteed loan, a local agricultural lender makes and services the loan, and FSA guarantees it against loss; in most cases this is a 90 percent guarantee of loss. In certain limited circumstances, a 95-percent guarantee is available. Call the office to talk about your credit needs, or call George Button, Farm Loan Manager, to set up an appointment to meet with him.

**Beware of Crop Insurance Rebating Schemes**

With the spring sales closing date for many Federal crop insurance policies right around the corner, crop insurance agents have stepped up their marketing efforts. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has received reports from producers and agents that some aggressive marketers have been approaching producers with rebating offers. These schemes promise lower insurance premiums, re-funds, dividends, or items of value tied to crop insurance purchases. Most of these activities are illegal.

RMA reminds all Federal crop insurance program participants that it is now coordinating with state regulators to take appropriate regulatory action against all those who are found to promote or participate in such schemes. **Producers who are found to participate in illegal rebating activities will not only lose their crop insurance coverage but will also lose eligibility in all USDA programs.** Producers and agents can report suspicions of illegal rebating to the OIG Hotline: 1-800-424-9121.



Dates to Remember	
April 18	Last day for Windham Co. District Plant & Tree Sale Orders
May 5	Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) <b>ENDS</b>
July 15	Acreage Reports Deadline
Continues	Livestock Compensation Program-quantity sign-up
Ongoing	Farm Storage Facility Loans <b>March 3.125%</b>
Ongoing	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Sign-Up
Coming	Crop Disaster Program-quality sign-up